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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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**MEMBER OF LEXINGTON TERRACE BOYS SENTENCED
TO 18 YEARS FOR DRUG TRAFFICKING**

BALTIMORE, Maryland - Allen F. Loucks, United States Attorney for the District of Maryland, announced that today U.S. District Court Judge Catherine C. Blake sentenced Marcus Steve Baskerville, age 21, of Baltimore, Maryland to 18 years followed by 5 years of supervised release in connection with Baskerville's conviction for conspiracy to distribute more than 50 grams of cocaine base.

The defendant was charged in the fall of 2002 as part of an ongoing investigation into a violent drug conspiracy in the Lexington Terrace neighborhood in West Baltimore. The extensive investigation into the drug trafficking and associated violence in and around that neighborhood resulted in testimony from cooperating coconspirators and numerous other witnesses. Law enforcement established that some Lexington Terrace gang members engaged in a wide variety of criminal offenses to protect its territory and its members, including narcotics trafficking, murders and attempted murders, witness tampering, arson, and armed robbery.

The case was investigated by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Baltimore City Police Department homicide detectives, the Housing Authority Police Force, and the Baltimore County Police Department. It was prosecuted by Assistant United States Attorneys Stephanie A. Gallagher and Debra Dwyer.